

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

Extending Medicaid funding for the U.S. insular areas we represent must be dealt with as we conclude this 1st session of the 116th Congress. Your staff have been attentive to the information our staff have presented, demonstrating the immediate need for federal Medicaid funds for our areas. The Energy and Commerce Committee led by Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden recognized this need by adding an insular Medicaid extension, which we endorse, together with program reforms in the Committee's July mark-up of the REACH Act, H.R. 2328. And Senate Finance Committee Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden rolled out a similar, if less long-term, proposal last week.

Now we ask that you, too, come to agreement and include language extending insular area Medicaid in a year-end spending bill or other appropriate legislative vehicle.

While the particulars for each of our districts differ, there are fundamentals common to all. Americans in our districts do not have the same Medicaid coverage, as Americans elsewhere in our nation. Because our districts are comparatively less well-off than the rest of America, significant numbers of our constituents use Medicaid to obtain healthcare and a significant portion of revenues supporting healthcare for the entire population comes from Medicaid. Most importantly, extra funding provided us in the Affordable Care Act has now expired, leaving our programs on the brink of reverting to pre-2011 funding levels. In short, our predicament is dire.

These facts were well established in the hearings that Vice Chair Sablan convened in the Natural Resources Committee in May and that Chair Eshoo held in the Health Subcommittee in June. The Energy and Commerce Committee responded with a reasonable, bipartisan solution. Senate leaders, too, clearly want to act.

Let us take advantage of that momentum and of this moment of crisis for the insular area Medicaid programs. Please, extend insular Medicaid programs in Congress's year-end actions.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN
Vice Chair for Insular Affairs



MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS
Member of Congress



AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN
Member of Congress



STACEY E. PLASKETT
Member of Congress



JENIFFER GONZALEZ-COLON
Member of Congress